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**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ASSOCIATING
IDENTIFICATION AND PERSONAL DATA FOR
MULTIPLE MAGNETIC STRIPE CARDS OR OTHER SOURCES**

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/664,205 filed September 18, 2000, for which a notice of allowance has been issued, and hereby incorporates by reference all material therein.

5 **TECHNICAL FIELD THE INVENTION**

This invention relates generally to an improvement for the use of magnetic striping on devices such as credit cards and the like, and in particular, but not by way of any limitation to a methodology and improved magnetic stripe card which is capable of

encoding additional information other than that originally presented on the card,
particularly identification and personal data.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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In today's electronic commerce there has been a proliferation in the use of
various types of credit, debit, identification and other types of authorization cards. For
example, an average individual is likely to carry a driver's licence, several credit and/or
debit cards, an identification card for access to a health club, an identification card to
gain access to a place of employment and an access card to gain entry into a parking
garage, among others. Furthermore, with advances in electronic commerce, smart cards
are likely to replace paper and coin money resulting in an additional card for consumers
to carry. Each of these cards typically incorporates a magnetic stripe or bar code to
facilitate easy recognition of the card and to store various types of data. Although the
use of these cards allow for easy and efficient electronic commerce, the number of such
cards quickly becomes cumbersome and many individuals find carrying the large number
of cards inconvenient.

Prior art magnetic stripe credit cards and the like have various limitations. For
example, virtually all the prerecorded magnetic stripe cards that are currently in use are
used for a single purpose. For example, a credit card or an identity card is generally
used for just that purpose alone. In many instances, owners and users of these type of

cards need to present several cards in order to maximize or complete a given transaction. Specifically, a discount card such as is used in certain supermarkets as well as the credit card to make the purchase must be both presented so as to obtain the discount.

5 Various solutions such as providing a sticker which can be placed on a credit card or the like have been suggested, however, these defeat the purpose of having an increased level of automation for check outs for example.

There are many instances whereby an individual, consumer, entity, organization, etc., would find it desirable to provide others with a secure, customized set of Id data that would facilitate a transaction and or event of a specific type. Additionally, the receiver of the data for the transaction may wish to provide complimenting and supplemental data back to the originator of the transaction and all such transactions being done in a digitized format to be interpreted, manipulated and/or displayed on Point-of sale transaction(POS) devices/computers both at the POS and remotely. Additionally, the process of initializing this secure transaction would be more flexible if
15 the acceptors of the transaction could utilize a Magnetic stripe card that could combine a unique identifying code with the standard ISO data from other completely different financial or other card's magnetically striped data.

Accordingly, the inventor herein proposes a solution which is both cost efficient and time efficient and which allows the use of conventional types of magnetic stripe
20 readers which are currently being used in most retail establishments. One embodiment

of the present invention allows for a single swipe of the card through the magnetic strip reader to provide all the information in one pass. This can be accomplished by recording onto the conventional magnetic strip of the credit card, the desired data from multiple cards and other sources which are necessary to complete a chosen transaction. In particular, a secure, customized set of identification data may be used to facilitate a transaction or even of a specific type.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention uses a method and apparatus for providing onto the magnetic stripe of a card additional information and consolidating multiple information from multiple cards as well as other sources onto the magnetic stripe card. In order to do so, a wallet consolidator, such as that shown in co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/087,193 filed May 29, 1998 (for which a Notice of Allowance has been issued), could be employed. Although other types of readers and writers could be used to generate this data, this invention should in no way be considered to be limited to the use of any specific wallet consolidator or other means such as is mentioned above.

Specifically, a device such as a wallet consolidator can be used in which the magnetic stripe information from multiple credit cards can be read from what is generally the commonly used three ISO/8711 tracks that are present on the card. However, it should be noted that in many types of credit cards one or more of these tracks may have no data

provided on the card. What then can be accomplished is the reading of multiple tracks from multiple cards storing this all in memory and then rewriting the information to either a blank card or to the existing card after erasing the information along with, if necessary, additional "foreign" data onto the card. In an other embodiment it may be possible to write the additional foreign data on an existing card without an erasure and re-writing of the data, however this is not the preferred mode of operation.

In one embodiment of this invention, a secure, customized set of personal identification data is placed at the end of any data which was originally on the track or on an empty track. It may also be placed at any other position that the reading software in a point of sale (POS) terminal would have or would find to be ideal, this could also be at the front of a track for example or embedded within the track. The data of each track is formatted with a start sentinel character followed by the data itself followed by a stop sentinel. This data is then used to facilitate a transaction and/or event of a specific type. Conventional magnetic swipe readers look for the start or stop sentinel to indicate that a body of data follows. It should be noted however, that some readers will read the data irrespective of which way the card is swiped through the reader. The electronic circuitry in these types of readers detect the direction of the swipe by noting whether a start or stop sentinel is received first. This means that foreign data placed after the stop sentinel will not be recognized if it is not bracketed by standard start and stop sentinels.

5 The ISO-8711 standard specifies that at least two machine control codes for each
type of track specifically, the types of tracks can be for example 75 or 210 bpi. These
control codes and be used to bracket the foreign data. It would then be possible to
design the reader that will look for data bracketed by the special control codes and/or
designed software that will look for the data bracketed by these special control codes
after a standard stop sentinel. Foreign data such as a coupon information, a discount
card number or the like may be written in any track that was originally unused or even if
used after a stop sentinel is present, and if that foreign data is bracketed by these special
control codes then the foreign data will not be read by standard magnetic swipe readers
and therefore will be ignored. However, special readers in the software at the host
computer for the transaction can look for these control codes and then confine the
foreign data and organize it in a manner acceptable for multiple purposes in the
individual cards. This makes it possible to have additional information placed on the
magnetic stripe card which would not be read by conventional readers in the field but
15 would be obtainable from specialized readers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The novel features of the present invention will be understood and appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art by reference to the following detailed description of the invention taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings and which:

5 FIGURE 1 is a track layout in accordance with one aspect of the present invention;

FIGURE 2 is a layout of the conventional ISO track diagram;

FIGURE 3, 4, and 5 are more detailed descriptions of the track layout under a standard ISO-8711 standard; and

FIGURE 6 is a transaction flow chart of a process for associating identification and personal data in accordance with the method and apparatus of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

15 Applicant has discovered that there are many instances whereby an individual, consumer, entity, organization, etc. would find it desirable to provide others with a secure, customized set of identification data that would facilitate a transaction or event of a specific type. Using the basic principles of the present invention as described in the above referenced prior filed patent application of Applicant, the process is thus described.

Referring first to the description and drawings of the above referenced
prior filed application of Applicant, it may be seen that FIG. 1 herein shows that an
additional timing track 10 can be employed on a card 20 in this invention which may be
used to ameliorate the need of an optical encoder in a device such as the wallet
consolidator discussed above or in other types of readers. This is provided in that most
conventional magnetic stripe readers use a mechanical sensor or optical sensor which is
used to detect the speed at which the magnetic stripe card is being read through the
stripe reader. By having an additional timing track supplied as an additional track the
inventor herein has provided a means by which the reader can be made at a lower cost by
using the timing track herein to determine the timing arrangement. However, this
additional timing track 10 is not necessary for the operation of this invention, and in fact
the conventional encoding and timing mechanism are quite satisfactory.

One of the significant features of this invention is that multiple stripes from
various credit cards can be read and consolidated onto one card as is set forth in
aforementioned wallet consolidator patent application. One of the unique features of
this invention is the ability to take foreign or other sources and to add that material onto
a given track on the card. The wallet consolidator uses the individual memory chip or
smart chip contained on a card to store information however, this information can also
be temporarily stored in the memory of a device such as the wallet consolidator and
added to the magnetic stripe. One of the unique features of applicant's invention is the

use of the fact that a standard track of one card data format, has an amount of information which is known as discretionary data which can be placed on any given card in any one of the standard three tracks. By using the control code to indicate the type of track is in a different format at using these control codes to "bracket" an individual stream of data and placing this after a standard stop sentinel on a data track a conventional reader would inherently ignore the information contained within this section. However, a specially constructed reader/writer would be able to look for or create these special control codes or the software within the conventional reader could be altered so that upon recognition of these special control codes this additional information could be decoded. This allows for a "hiding" of additional information which can be consolidated onto a given card to be employed and used in a very expeditious manner. Further it will be understood that the sentinels described above need not be employed to practice this invention and that other types of software codes can be used so that a POS terminal either as they exist today or with custom reprogramming can be used to read the additional or foreign information that is to be "added" to conventional tracks. The start and stop sentinels have been described herein as only an example of the types of control codes that can be used to bracket the foreign data that is to be added to the card stripe. Further a control code could be programmed into the stripe that can be recognized by the POS reader to indicate that this is for example a credit card, a second code could indicate that this is a discount or affinity card, and yet a

third code could indicate that this is a drivers license. These codes could also be combined in various ways. Prior art systems have not used these special control codes to effectively hide additional data on a given track. This additional information can be used effectively.

5 This can be made more clear when one reviews Figures 3, 4 and 5 which shows the significant amount of space that is available for "either discretionary data or additional data" on a given track. This is especially true when the 210bpi track is used. The additional either alpha numeric or numeric characters provides a significant amount of space for additional data to be placed on a given card which has been unavailable in prior art systems. Additionally, as the control code can be used to effectively to "shift" the track concentration from 75 to 210bpi in the middle of the track additional information can be "hidden" as still be provided to a specially outfitted or programmed reader. Accordingly, additional data can be used and be present on a card which would not be generally readable without the proper equipment or programming.

15 Referring now to FIG. 6, there is shown a transaction flow chart of a process for associating identification and personal data utilizing the system described above with regard to FIGS. 1 - 5. As stated above, there are many instances whereby an individual, consumer, entity, organization, etc., would find it desirable to provide others with a secure, customized set of Id data that would facilitate a transaction and or event of a
20 specific type. Additionally, the receiver of the data for the transaction may wish to

provide complimenting and supplemental data back to the originator of the transaction and all such transactions being done in a digitized format to be interpreted, manipulated and/or displayed on Point-of sale transaction(POS) devices/computers both at the POS and remotely. Additionally, the process of initializing this secure transaction would be more flexible if the acceptors of the transaction could utilize a Magnetic stripe card that could combine a unique identifying code with the standard ISO data from other completely different financial or other card's magnetically striped data.

FIGURE 6 visually illustrates an example of such a transaction as follows:

Individual A would transmit via computer/communication line, his or her personal data, to a remote computer server. In this case a downloaded or scanned personal image, a downloaded or read driver's license, checking account number, credit card, debit card and supermarket frequent purchaser card.

Through server prompted instructions, the individual would be asked to select a password to protect his data, then further prompts could permit him to associate, if he so desired, certain ID and or purchasing (credit/debit/checking account data) with particular transaction types, merchants, etc. In this example he could link the image, drivers license, checking account data and frequent purchaser card data with transactions driven by, for example, a supermarket with which he holds the frequent purchaser card. When shopping at the supermarket chain, he could present a magnetically striped card, smartcard, or radio frequency or infrared PDA transmitted personal ID number. The

store POS would read the data, communicate ultimately with the central server, retrieve the customized transaction data , which could be displayed, including the image of the purchaser, on the store POS screen and the purchase would be confirmed with buyer and seller.

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The supermarket could then transmit the purchase data back to the central server, including as an example an electronic coupon(s) for future purchases. The supermarket could be empowered by the individual to also transmit at any time to the server, other coupons, discounts offers and or communications which could be read and or redeemed by the customer for future purposes. The system could be expanded to include, by way of examples, membership ID's admittance, hospital, medical insurance, event ticketing, and/or money transfer type transactions. In this fashion, an individual and/or entity could minimize portability issues and facilitate complex identification needs such as biometrics, imaging, and fingerprint technologies.

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It will readily be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that multiple uses of this additional data can be had. Further, it will readily understood that there are numerous rearrangements, modifications or substitutions which are possible and this invention should not be limited without departing from the spirit of this invention as set forth above and defined by the following appended claims: